Water System Name PWS ID

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Missouri Department of Natural Resources and **public water system name (Water Supply ID # MO)** are concerned about lead in your drinking water. This summer some taps tested higher than allowed. EPA and the department have set an action level of 15ppb, or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L). We will be taking several more sets of samples. You are encouraged to flush your taps thoroughly before drinking water when you have not used the water for some time. We are working with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to provide a solution. If you have any questions about how we are carrying out the requirements of the lead regulation, please give us a call at **phone number**. This flyer explains the simple steps you can take to protect yourself and your family from exposure to lead in drinking water.

Important Information about Lead in Your Drinking Water

[**Insert name of water system**] found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of the body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

Lead is a common metal found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, household dust, food, certain types of pottery, porcelain, pewter, crystal and water. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much enters your body. Lead builds up in the body over many years and can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys. The greatest risk is to young children (especially under age 6), pregnant women and their fetuses. Amounts of lead that do not appear to hurt adults can slow down the normal mental and physical development of growing bodies. In addition, a child at play often comes into contact with sources of lead contamination, like dirt and dust that rarely affect an adult. If children put dirty fingers in their mouths (as most children do) some lead may be absorbed into the children's systems. It is important to wash children's hands and toys often and try to make sure they only put food in their mouths.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water, although rarely a sole cause of lead poisoning, can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure to infants who drink baby formulas and concentrates that are mixed with water. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20 percent or more of a person's total exposure to lead. Boiling water does not reduce lead levels.

How Lead Enters Our Water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supply wells. In most systems, lead enters drinking water as a result of corrosion of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect your house to the water main (service lines). In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2 percent lead and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials to 8.0 percent. Because of this, faucets are sometimes the main source of lead in the type of samples we take. In 2011, Congress further reduced the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials to 0.25 percent. The effective date for the new requirement was January 4, 2014.

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead in the pipes or solder may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or after a period of absence, can contain fairly high levels of lead. Flushing the tap after a setting time as explained above can significantly reduce the lead content in drinking water.

What You Can Do

1) Purchase bottled water for cooking and drinking.
2) Flush the tap for one to two minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking. Doing this reduces the level of lead and copper because if flushes away the water that has been sitting in pipes or against the fittings.

What We Have Done to Reduce Lead

Two out of five homes tested had elevated lead levels. We are working with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to resolve this problem.

For More Information

A variety of sources are available for additional information:

- Your Family Doctor can perform a blood test for lead and provide information about the health effects of lead.
- We encourage you to flush your taps very well before consuming the water if it has not been used for a day or more.
- The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services in Jefferson City can provide information on the health effects of lead exposure and steps to avoid environmental lead exposure. Their number is 573-751-6102.
- Specific Information on lead in drinking water at a water system can be obtained by calling the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Public Drinking Water Branch at 1-800-361-4827 or 573-751-1406.